

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 03089 01 OF 02 280921Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ACDA-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DOE-11 SOE-02  
CEQ-01 OES-07 MCE-00 /126 W  
-----060398 281013Z /20

P 280751Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8353  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USMISSION MBFR VIENNA  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USLO PEKING  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
USMISSION USBERLIN  
USMISSION USNATO  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 03089

USSALTTWO

BELGRADE ALSO FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 03089 01 OF 02 280921Z

TAGS: PARM, SALT, PEPR, US, UR  
SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS ON U.S. REACTION TO BREZHNEV FEBRU-  
ARY 24 STATEMENT

REF: (A) MOSCOW 2709, (B) 77 MOSCOW 18505

SUMMARY: PREDICTABLY, SOVIET PRESS IS SELECTIVELY PRINT-

ING EXCERPTS FROM U.S. NEWSPAPERS AND SPEECHES

-- WELCOMING BREZHNEV'S FEB. 24 REMARKS ON IMPROVING SOVIET-U.S. RELATIONS;  
-- FOCUSING ON CONGRESSIONAL AND OTHER U.S.-BASED OBSTACLES TO THE SALT TALKS; AND,  
-- PREDICTING THAT SALT AGREEMENT COULD POSSIBLY BE POSTPONED TO 1979 OR MAY NOT EVEN BE CONCLUDED AND RATIFIED. (ALTHOUGH THERE ARE ONLY A FEW REFERENCES IN THIS REGARD, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE HAVE SEEN THIS POSSIBILITY OPENLY MENTIONED IN SOVIET CENTRAL PRESS. WE EXPECT THAT BREZHNEV'S FEB 24 REMARKS ATTEMPTING TO HIGHLIGHT SOVIET GOOD INTENTIONS ON SALT AND TO PLACE BLAME ON U.S. FOR SLOW SALT PACE WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE BASIS FOR SOVIET PROPAGANDA. SEPTTEL FOLLOWS ON FEB 26 STUDIO NINE TV COMMENTARY ON SALT, NEUTRON BOMB AND THE HORN. END SUMMARY.

1. SOVIET MEDIA ARE PORTRAYING U.S. REACTION TO BREZHNEV'S FEB 24 REMARKS AS POSITIVE, OCCASIONALLY EVEN ENTHUSIASTIC, WHILE SELECTIVELY HIGHLIGHTING U.S. NEWS ITEMS AND SPEECHES THAT SUPPORT BREZHNEV'S CONTENTION THAT "SOME" INFLUENTIAL PERSONS IN THE U.S. ARE SEEKING TO RETARD SALT NEGOTIATIONS. FEB 27 PRAVDA CARRIES FEB 26 TASS ARTICLE REPORTING SENATOR KENNEDY'S SAN FRANCISCO SPEECH. ARTICLE HAS KENNEDY:

-- CALLING FOR AN EARLY CONCLUSION TO SALT TALKS AND DECLARING THAT THE PRIMARY U.S. FOREIGN POLICY GOAL SHOULD BE TO PREVENT NUCLEAR WAR AND TO ESTABLISH COOPERATIVE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 03089 01 OF 02 280921Z

RELATIONS AMONG GREAT POWERS;

-- STRONGLY CPLICIZING "THOSE POLITICAL FIGURES IN THE U.S. WHO ARE OPPOSING THE CONCLUSION OF A U.S.-SOVIET AGREEMENT ON LIMITING THE STRATEGIC ARMS RACE": AND  
-- STATING THAT "SOME POLITICIANS IN WASHINGTON" OCCASIONALLY DISCUSS DELAYING THE SIGNING OF AN AGREEMENT UNTIL 1979," EVEN IN THE EVENT THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE COMPLETED.

" TASS QUOTES KENNEDY AS HOLDING THAT THE "U.S. SENATE SHOULD IMMEDIATELY RATIFY" A SALT II AGREEMENT" AND THAT  
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A MISTAKE FOR THE U.S." SINCE THIS WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO FURTHERING THE ARMS RACE AND COMPLICATE SOVIET-U.S. RELATIONS.

2. E. GRIGOR'EV, IN FEB 26 PRAVDA "INTERNATIONAL WEEK" COLUMN, QUOTES RECENT "NEWSWEEK" ARTICLE AS STATING THAT OBSTACLES TO A NEW SALT TREATY WILL PROBABLY ARISE BETWEEN THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS AND NOT BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE USSR. GRIGOR'EV THEN WRITES, "IN THIS CASE, APPARENTLY THE TERM 'CONGRESS' MEANS OPPONENTS OF GOOD NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND USSR, AND DETENTE IN GENERAL. AND AMONG THEM ONE CANNOT BUT MENTION THE MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX, THE PENTAGON AND OTHER

CIRCLES". GRIGOR'EV CONTINUES: "IT SEEMS THAT THESE INFLUENTIAL FORCES CONTINUE NOT ONLY TO OPPOSE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE WORK OF A STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENT, BUT TO STIMULATE MATERIAL PREPARATION FOR A WAR ON A GLOBAL SCALE. FOR THIS PURPOSE, THEY ARE PRESSING THE NATO KEYBOARD, DEVISING UP ARMS PROGRAMS FOR VARIOUS AREAS OF THE GLOBE".

3. IN THE SAME ARTICLE, GRIGOR'EV CITES CHARLES YOST AS WRITING IN THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR THAT IF AN "AGREEMENT IS NOT REACHED OR IS NOT RATIFIED, THIS WILL LEAD NOT ONLY TO THE OPENING OF AN EVEN MORE DANGEROUS AND COSTLY ARMS RACE, BUT WILL UNDERMINE U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS GENERALLY AND ENDANGER PEACE IN THE WORLD".

4. FEB 26 PRAVDA ALSO CARRIES REMARKS BY SENATORS CRANSCONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 MOSCOW 03089 01 OF 02 280921Z

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 03089 02 OF 02 280926Z  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 03089

USSALTTWO

BELGRADE ALSO FOR USDEL CSCE

TON AND GRAVEL AND CONGRESSMAN BRADEMAS WELCOMING  
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 03089 02 OF 02 280926Z

BREZHNEV'S POSITIVE CHARACTERIZATION OF U.S.-  
SOVIET PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGES AND LOOKING FORWARD TO  
RETURN VISIT BY U.S. CONGRESSMEN.

5. SOVIET PRESS AND TV HAVE ALSO PUBLICIZED TASS ACCOUNT  
OF STATE DEPARTMENT STATEMENT WELCOMING BREZHNEV'S RE-  
MARKS ON RESULTS OF PONOMAREV VISIT, SOVIET DESIRE TO CON-  
TINUE PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGES AND SOVIET EXPRESSED DETER-  
MINATION TO WORK TOWARD A PROMPT AND MUTUALLY ADVANTAGE-  
OUS SALT AGREEMENT, WHICH WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT STEP IN  
IMPROVING U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS. (TASS ACCOUNT THEN GOES  
ON TO CRITICIZE DEPARTMENT'S "DISTORTION" OF SOVIET POLICY  
IN THE HORN.)

6. COMMENT: WE EXPECT SOVIET MEDIA TO DRAW LIBERALLY ON  
BREZHNEV'S FEB 24 STATEMENTS AS BASIS FOR REINFORCING  
SOVIET EXPRESSIONS OF GOOD INTENTIONS AND SUPPORT FOR AN  
EARLY SALT AGREEMENT AND A GENERAL IMPROVEMENT IN SOVIET-  
U.S. RELATIONS. WHILE DOING SO, THE SOVIET PRESS WILL  
ALSO CONTINUE TO PLACE BLAME ON U.S. FOR DIFFICULTIES IN  
SALT NEGOTIATIONS, AS BREZHNEV DID IN HIS REMARKS.

7. THE TASS ACCOUNT OF KENNEDY'S SPEECH AND THE GRIGOR'EV  
EDITORIAL ARE ALSO NOTEWORTHY FOR THEIR MENTION OF POSSI-  
BILITY SALT AGREEMENT MAY NOT BE REACHED OR RATIFIED  
(YOST COMMENT), OR MAY BE POSTPONED UNTIL 1979 (KENNEDY  
COMMENT). THIS CONTRASTS WITH OPTIMISM BREZHNEV EXPRESSED  
ON SALT ACCORD ("VERY GOOD POSSIBILITIES FOR SUCCESS")  
IN HIS PRAVDA INTERVIEW LAST DEC 24 (REF B). MATLOCK

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**TAGS:** PARM, PEPR, US, UR, (BREZHNEV, LEONID I)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014